

ALABAMANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Alabamans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Alabama. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Alabama.

INCOME: ALABAMANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Alabama was \$41,310.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Alabama was \$37,502, a significant drop of 9.2 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN ALABAMA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Alabama had 591,000 adults without insurance (13.4% percent).³
- In 2005, Alabama had 696,000 adults without insurance (15.4 percent).⁴
- Alabama had 81,856 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN Alabama

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Alabama was \$7,338.⁶ In 2005, it was \$9,819, a 34 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Alabama was \$14,248.⁸ In 2005, it was \$17,250, a 21 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Alabamans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 39,157¹⁰
- Number of Alabamans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 43,193¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Alabama was \$1.359 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Alabama is \$2.272 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Alabama was \$2, 211.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Alabama is \$3,696, \$1,485 (67.2 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: ALABAMANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Alabama – 884,410¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Alabama – \$817¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: ALABAMANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Alabamans killed in Iraq – 42¹⁸
- Number of Alabamans wounded in Iraq – 346¹⁹
- Number of Alabamans killed in Afghanistan – 4²⁰
- Number of Alabamans wounded in Afghanistan – 19²¹
- Number of Veterans in Alabama – 426,322²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING ALABAMA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 278 estates in Alabama paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 49 estates in Alabama will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 126,000 workers in Alabama would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST ALABAMANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Alabamans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Alabama residents each received an average of \$ 2,243 in tax cuts, while middle class Alabama residents received only \$381.²⁶
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Alabama residents will receive an average of \$28,793 in tax cuts, while middle class Alabama residents will only receive \$613.²⁷
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Alabama residents will each receive an average of \$54,419 in tax cuts, while middle class Alabama residents will only receive \$701.²⁸

The richest Alabamans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Alabamans received 5.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 19.5 percent of the tax cut.²⁹
- But, in 2006, the richest Alabamans will get 24.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.7 percent of the tax cut.³⁰
- And, in 2010, the richest Alabamans will get 41.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.8 percent of the tax cut.³¹

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Alabamans.

- In 2010, the richest Alabamans will receive an average of \$8,314 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Alabamans will be getting over 50.9 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³²
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Alabamans will receive an average of \$26 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.4 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³³

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